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THE CITY OF DURHAM CORPORATION.

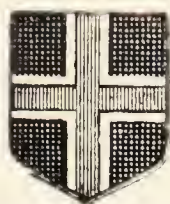


ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OTHER RECORDS
FOR 1954.

R. GORDON DRUMMOND, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DURHAM
G. BAILES & SONS, PRINTERS, ETC.
1955.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

R. GORDON DRUMMOND, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Also Medical Officer of Health Durham Rural District, Brandon and Byshottles Urban District, Assistant County Medical Officer County Durham).

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR :

LESLIE OATES, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR :

JOHN BITTLESTONE, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

RODENT OFFICER :

MR. A. T. SMITH.

CLERICAL STAFF :

MRS. J. WILBY, Clerk.

MISS J. M. CLARK.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my second Annual Report, being that for the year 1954.

While at first impression the Vital Statistics are disappointing, on closer scrutiny and with comparison of rates over the years so that trends may be discerned, I do not think that there is cause for disquiet. The Birth Rate has fallen fairly steadily from the high figure it attained in 1946. The Death Rate changes little over the years. The Infant Mortality Rate is high but on the other hand the Stillbirth Rate is low. The wide fluctuations in the Infant Mortality Rate over the past ten years are probably attributable to the sensitivity of the figure due to the low numbers involved.

Certainly evidence gained in other ways supports the impression that during the year the state of the public health was good.

The incidence of infectious disease of all kinds was remarkably low.

A feature of the year's progress was the initiation of a (limited) Chiropody Service. This soon proved its need and has been very popular among those for whom it was intended.

I am glad to have this opportunity of thanking you, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your encouragement and support. I have pleasure, too, in acknowledging gratefully the co-operation and assistance of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Leslie Oates, and the Staff of the Health Department.

I have the honour to be

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. GORDON DRUMMOND.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Area in acres ... 4,029.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population :—19,580.

Number of inhabited houses end of 1954 :—5,854.

Rateable value, 1953 :—£140,034. 1954 :—£144,775.

Sum represented by a 1d. rate, 1953 :—£559 16s. 3d.
1954 :—£581 2s. 11d.

Registrar General's area comparability factors :—

Births 0.97

Deaths 1.01

LIVE BIRTHS.

	MALE.	FEMALE.	TOTAL.	
Legitimate ...	142	135	277	Rate per 1,000 pop- ulation 14.7. Adjusted 14.3.
Illegitimate	10	—	10	
Total	<u>152</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>287</u>	

STILL BIRTHS.

Legitimate	5	—	5	(Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births, 17.1.
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Total	<u>5</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>5</u>	

DEATHS.

All causes)	128	101	229	Rate per 1,000 pop- ulation, 11.7. Adjusted, 11.8.
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INFANT MORTALITY : (Deaths of children under 1 year of age) :

Legitimate	6	6	12	Rate 45.3 (per 1,000 live births).
Illegitimate	1	—	1	
Total ...	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>13</u>	

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	36
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area.

4,029 Acres. The City borders on the North, East and South with Durham Rural District and on the West with Brandon and Byshottles Urban District.

Population.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population is 19,580 a decrease of 360 from 1953.

Inhabited Houses.

The number of inhabited houses, 5,854 represents an increase of 104 over the 1953 figure.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Registrar General's Area Comparability Factors for Births and Deaths are a means of adjusting the rates for Births and Deaths so that the population of the District is directly comparable with the population of England and Wales in so far as distribution by age and sex is concerned. The adjusted figures are those to be compared with the figures for England and Wales and with the similarly adjusted figures for other areas.

Births.

During the year 287 live births were registered, 152 males and 135 females. Of these 10 were illegitimate.

There were 11 fewer births than in 1953.

The birth rate (adjusted) of 14.3 is to be compared with that of 16.9 for last year.

Deaths.

229 deaths were registered, 16 more than in 1953 and the death rate (adjusted) of 11.8 compares with that for 1953 when it was 11.9.

The table of causes of death shows that Diseases of the Heart and Circulation accounted for 79 of the deaths registered, or 35% as in 1953. Deaths from Cancer number 36 compared with 37 in 1953.

65% of all deaths occurred in persons over the age of 65.

Infant Mortality : (Deaths of children under 1 year of age).

The rate of 45.3 per 1,000 live births was higher than last year when it was 26.8. The lowest recorded rate in the City was in 1952 when it was 19.4.

The figure for England and Wales for 1954 is 25.5.

13 children died before reaching one year of age, as compared with 8 last year.

The actual numbers for the past 10 years are :—

1945 ...	... 14	1950...	... 13
1946 ...	... 15	1951...	... 14
1947 ...	... 17	1952...	... 6
1948 ...	... 8	1953...	... 8
1949 ...	... 11	1954...	... 13

and these numbers should be read in conjunction with the rates given in the table and should be borne in mind in assessing the change in the rate over the years. As the numbers of infant deaths each year are comparatively small, too great significance should not be attached to a single rate.

Of the 13 children who died before reaching one year of age nine were less than one month old.

Of this nine, five were premature.

Consideration of the infant mortality is not complete without consideration at the same time of the Still Birth Rate which this year is low at 17.1. The number of still births and the number of deaths in the first weeks of life taken together represent the mortality occurring at about the time of birth. Had there been, for example, three more stillbirths the Stillbirth Rate would have been 27.1 and had there been three fewer infant deaths the Infant Mortality Rate would have been 34.8, and both these postulated rates while they are higher than the rates for the County as a whole are much more nearly in accord with them than are the actual rates.

Maternal Mortality.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE PERIODS.

All Ages.	0—1	1—	2—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—
229	13	—	1	3	—	17	47	148

INFANT MORTALITY.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 wk.	1—2 wks.	2—3 wks.	3—4 wks.	Total under 1 mth.	1—3 mths.	3—6 mths.	6—9 mths.	9—12 mths.	Total
Prematurity	5	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	5
Conigental Malformations ..	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Haemolytic Disease of the Newborn ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Gastro Enteritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Bronchopneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, AND INFANT MORTALITY
OVER TEN YEARS.

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Birth Rate	15.5	21.7	20.0	17.9	15.4	16.8	14.4	17.6	16.9	14.3
Death Rate	11.3	12.2	13.3	9.9	11.0	10.9	11.	11.3	11.9	11.8
Infant Mortality	55	38	49	32	35	22	47	19.4	26.8	45.3

TABLE COMPARING THE BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1954 OF ENGLAND AND WALES, ETC., WITH THAT FOR DURHAM CITY.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	Death Rate per 1000 Popula- tion.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All Causes.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years.	Total deaths under one year.
England and Wales ...	15.2	24.0	11.3	0.8	25.5
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	16.8	25.6	12.0	0.9	29.1
160 Smaller Towns, (Esti- mated Resident Popu- lations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	15.4	22.3	11.3	0.5	23.8
Administrative County of Durham	17.3	25.2	11.5	1.72	31
Durham City	14.3	17.1	11.8	—	45.3

CAUSES OF DEATH IN DURHAM BOROUGH, 1954.

Cause of Death.	Total	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	229	128	101
Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	2	1
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	1	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	1	1	—
Measles	1	1	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	2	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	9	6	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	3	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	3	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	2	—	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	18	10	8
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	—	2
Diabetes	2	—	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	29	16	13
Coronary disease, angina	33	22	11
Hypertension with heart disease	7	4	3
Other heart disease	32	20	12
Other circulatory disease	7	4	3
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	14	5	9
Bronchitis	6	5	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	2	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	2	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	1	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	3	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	32	11	21
Motor vehicle accidents	5	5	—
All other accidents	3	3	—
Suicide	2	2	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

There was no undue prevalence of notifiable infectious disease.

Scarlet Fever : Only five cases were notified as opposed to 22 last year.

Whooping Cough : There were only 19 cases a considerable reduction from the 73 which occurred in 1953.

Acute Poliomyelitis : Of the five cases notified, four occurred in neighbouring districts but were admitted to hospital in the City.

The one which occurred in the City was of the severe paralytic form of the disease, in an adult and proved fatal. The source of infection was not determined.

In an attempt to limit the opportunities for spread of the virus, measures of modified quarantine of contacts were adopted, advice being given to persons who were contacts of cases occurring elsewhere. In some instances exclusion from work was advised, several children were excluded from school and in one school two classes were closed. I am glad to be able to record that the fullest co-operation was accorded.

Poliomyelitis, perhaps not unnaturally, probably now gives rise to greater public concern, especially among parents of young children. Whether this results in part from, or is a cause of, the publicity to which the occurrence of a case usually gives rise is debateable. The fact remains that on the occurrence of a case, or a suspected case, contacts of it, and even their associates, quickly seek information and reassurance.

Measles : The 34 cases notified contrast with the number of 231 the previous year. One death, in an infant aged nine months was contributed to by measles.

Diphtheria : The solitary case notified and admitted to hospital was later proved not to be suffering from this disease, so that for the second successive year there were no cases of diphtheria.

I would reiterate, however, the remarks made last year, namely that it must not be assumed that the disease has been eradicated. The danger of infection is present and complacency will foster that danger. The need for immunisation of children against the disease is as great as ever and it will be regrettable if absence of care leads parents to neglect the use of this method of control, the facilities for which exist as before.

638 children under 5 years of age had completed a full course of immunisation by 31st December, 1954. It is estimated that this figure represents only about 50% of the number of children under 5 years and over 8 months old, the latter being the age from which immunisation is usually performed.

Records were received that 142 children under the age of 5 received during the year full courses of primary immunisation, the corresponding figure for 1953 being 199.

Dysentery : Three of the four cases were notified from a hospital in the City and all were in respect of admissions from other districts.

The fourth occurred in the City, a mild case of Sonne Dysentery in a child.

Paratyphoid Fevers : Of the three cases one belonged to the City. The source of infection was not determined. The form was paratyphoid B.

Meningococcal Infection : All eight cases were notified after admission to hospital in the City from other districts.

Puerperal Pyrexia : The eight notifications were received from hospital and concerned confinements which had taken place there.

Tuberculosis : The number of new cases dropped from 32 last year to 13, of which only one was non-pulmonary. Of the 12 new pulmonary cases seven were in persons over the age of 45 years.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES REPORTED DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	5	3	—
Whooping Cough	19	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	5	5	1
Paralytic			
Non-Paralytic			
Measles	34	—	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Pneumonia	2	—	14
Dysentery	4	3	—
Smallpox	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—
Infective			
Post-Infectious			
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	3	3	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—
Meningococcal infection ..	8	8	—
Food Poisoning	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	8	8	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10 — 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 20	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 — 25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 — 45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 55	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 — 65	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and Upwards	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	7	5	1	—	2	1	—	—

CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON REGISTER.

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
31st December, 1954	68	46	11	9	114	20
31st December, 1953	64	48	10	9	112	19

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION, 1954.

Live Births Registered.		Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1954.		Records received during the year of full courses of primary immunisations.			Records received during the year of reinforcing injections.
1953	1954	Under 5	5—15	Under 5	5—15	Total.	0—15
298	287	638	1545	142	6	148	70

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to the 31st December, 1954.

Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940
5	109	157	165	202	177	205	135	106	90	180	174	123	156	199

CHIROPODY SERVICE.

The "Gilesgate Foot Clinic" commenced in March and I reproduce here a Report on its first full year of operation which you have already received :

GILESGATE FOOT CLINIC.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1ST MARCH, 1954—28TH FEBRUARY, 1955.

INTRODUCTION.

The Foot Clinic was commenced on 1st March, 1954, so that this Report covers the first full year of operation.

It is held under the aegis of the Durham Old People's Welfare Association.

Mr. E. L. Chambers, M.Ch.S. is Chiropodist and has been since the inception.

Sessions are held on Mondays and Tuesdays in the Vane Tempest Hall, Gilesgate, 16 appointments being made for each day.

PREMISES.

The Hall is owned by the Gilesgate Welfare Association and the Clinic accommodation is provided free. This accommodation consists essentially of two rooms, one a waiting room in which also the clerical work is done, tea is served and there is a locking cupboard for storage of equipment. The other is the Treatment Room and is furnished with chiropody chair, lamp and dressings trolley. Both rooms are well heated and comfortable and, on the whole, may be said to be well-suited for the purpose.

ASSISTANCE.

This is provided by Members of the British Red Cross Society (President—Mrs. Allen), with the aid of other voluntary helpers. During the year a total of 1,480 hours attendance was given.

EQUIPMENT.

The Durham Samaritan Society (Honorary Secretary—Mrs. Perrott, Honorary Treasurer—Mrs. McDonald), paid for the equipment and is also providing for the payment of dressings.

The cost of this equipment was £41 5s. 3d.

It consists of :—

Chiropody Chair.
Dressing Trolley.
Dressing Tray.
Lamp.
3 Enamel Bowls.
Box of Record Cards.

TREATMENTS.

During the year Clinics were held on 94 days during which there were 188 clinic sessions of 3 hours.

At the full number of 16 per day this would have allowed 1,504 treatments. The actual number given, however, was 1,394, or 93% of the possible. The difference is due to missed appointments. In other words, of every 14 appointments made one was not kept.

The average number of treatments given each clinic day was 14.8.

315 persons were treated during the year. Each person received, on an average, 4.4 treatments.

The volume of requests for treatment is such that normally appointments can be made only for sessions about 7 or 8 weeks in advance.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Patients are charged 2/- for each treatment. The City Council resolved to contribute one-third of one penny rate to defray expenses. (National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 31).

Mention has been made of the provision of equipment and payment for dressings by the Durham Samaritan Society.

I am indebted for the following statement to Mr. L. Watkins, City Treasurer, who is Honorary Treasurer of the Durham Old People's Welfare Association :—

<i>Income.</i>				<i>Expenditure.</i>			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Fees	144	9	0	Mr. E. L. Chambers			
Durham Samaritan Society ...	15	0	0	M.Ch.S.	296	2	0
City Council ...	151	19	0	Dressings	13	19	8
				Stationery	1	6	4
	<u>£311</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>£311</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>

REMARKS.

The provision of Chiropody Service for Old People in Durham is greatly appreciated by those who avail themselves of it. Evidence that the demand will probably continue is provided by the fact that the waiting period for treatment of seven or eight weeks has been maintained since shortly after the Clinic opened. A number of enquiries about treatment are received, too, from persons living outside the City, some indeed, at a distance from it.

Instances have been quoted to me of the relief afforded by treatment, of a return to activity on the part of some who previously were almost confined to their homes and an accompanying renewal of confidence in being able to care for themselves.

The name of the late Councillor Mrs. Tredennick will always be associated with the venture. It was started largely through her efforts, in her capacities of City Councillor, President of the Durham Branch of the British Red Cross Society and Member of the Durham Old People's Welfare Association, and she took an active part in its operation, for the first few months, until she died.

I would not wish to close this Report without paying tribute, too, to the splendid spirit in which the Clinic is run. Over and above his Chiropody duties, Mr. Chambers has helped in no small measure to create this. The great contribution of the British Red Cross Society and the voluntary helpers is obvious as is the assistance given from the beginning by the Durham Samaritan Society. Not least in this regard is the part played by those for whom the Clinic exists.

SUMMARY.

Period of Report	1/3/54—28/2/55.
Number of Sessions	188
Number of days on which Sessions held ...	94
Number of treatments given	Possible 1504
	Actual 1394
Number of treatments per session	Possible 8
	Actual average 7.4
Number of persons treated	315
Average number of treatments per person ...	4.4
Cost to patient (per treatment)	2/-

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

1. *Public Health Services of the Local Authority.*
2. *Laboratory Services.*
 - (i) Dryburn Hospital, Department of Pathology.
 - (ii) Public Health Laboratory, Government Building, Ponteland Road, Newcastle, 5.
 - (iii) Public Analyst, Victoria Road, Darlington.
3. *General Medical Services.*

Durham County Executive Council, 20, New Elvet,
Durham
4. *Newcastle Regional Hospital Board.*

Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle.
Durham Hospital Management Committee, Dryburn
Hospital, Durham.

 - (a) *General.*
 - (i) Dryburn Hospital, Durham.
 - (ii) County Hospital, Durham.
 - (iii) Crossgate Hospital, Durham (Long Stay).
 - (b) *Maternity.*
 - (i) Dryburn Hospital.
 - (ii) Croxdale Maternity Hospital.
 - (c) *Infectious.*
 - (i) Chester-le-Street Isolation Hospital.
 - (ii) Langley Park Isolation Hospital (Smallpox).
 - (d) *Tuberculosis.*
 - (i) Dryburn Hospital, Durham.
 - (ii) Isolation Hospital, Chester-le-Street.
 - (iii) Chest Clinic, Earl's House, Hospital.
 - (iv) Mass Miniature Radiography Unit, Gilesgate Hospital.
 - (e) *Mental.*
 - (i) Winterton Hospital, Sedgelyield.
 - (ii) Aycliffe Hospital.
 - (iii) Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital.
 - (iv) Earl's House Hospital.
 - (v) Crossgate Hospital, Durham.

(f) *Convalescent.*

Brandon Hospital.

(g) *Venereal Diseases Clinic.*

County Hospital, Durham.

5. *Durham County Council, Health Services.*

(a) School Health Services.

(b) Ambulance Services,

County Ambulance Headquarters, Framwellgate Moor,
Durham.

(c) Health Visiting.

(d) Home Nursing.

(e) Domiciliary Midwifery.

(f) Domestic Help.

(g) Vaccination and Immunisation.

(h) Care of Mothers and Young Children.

(i) *Child Welfare Centres.*

Belmont—Parish Hall.

Durham—14, Old Elvet.

Gilesgate—Vane Tempest Hall.

(ii) *Artificial Sunlight Clinic.*

Durham.

(iii) *Birth Control Clinics.*

Durham.

(iv) *Post Natal Clinics.*

Durham.

(i) Prevention of Illness, care and after care, loan of equipment and appliances.

(j) Accommodation under Part III National Assistance Act.
Crossgate Hospital.

DURHAM,

August, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report for the year 1954.

In the year under review new legislation was introduced relating to slum clearance and slaughtering of animals.

The immediate results of the slum clearance legislation as given in Part I of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, will be closure of existing slum clearance properties and survey of the City with a view to submitting proposals for dealing with unfit houses not as yet scheduled for demolition.

The Slaughterhouses Act, 1954, has resulted in the re-opening of private slaughter-houses in the City.

Initially some trouble was experienced in collection of waste materials but the co-operation of the Parks and Cleansing Departments largely overcame this particular difficulty.

The first six months experience of private slaughtering proved to be satisfactory and the quality of the meat particularly good.

Durham City on 1st October, 1954, was included in a specified area where the sale of milk became restricted to specially designated milks. The sale of raw milk, other than tuberculin tested, is now prohibited.

High cost of repairs and pre-war rentals tends to make repair of houses difficult but works required under the Public Health Act have been carried out without any undue resource to legal action.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. R. Gordon Drummond for their kindly support during the past year and also to acknowledge the assistance and co-operation of Mr. Bittlestone and the Staff of the Health Department and other Officials of the Council.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

LESLIE OATES,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

RETURN TO COUNTY COUNCIL OF WORK DONE
IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPART-
MENT DURING THE YEAR, 1954.

	No. of inspections	No. of INFORMAL Notices served.	No. of STATUTORY Notices served.	Defects remedied after Notice.
I. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.				
Housing :				
Public Health and Housing Acts	663	64	7	59
Overcrowding	3	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :				
Insufficient	4	1	—	1
Defective	44	23	2	23
Drainage	145	51	11	51
Water Supply	9	—	—	—
Food Premises	406	18	—	18
Shops Act	20	—	—	—
Dairies	16	1	—	1
Slaughter Houses :				
Public	—	—	—	—
Private	275	3	—	3
Tents, Vans, etc.	5	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—
Factories & Workplaces	83	6	—	6
Keeping of Animals	1	1	—	1
Insanitary Ashpits & Receptacles	44	40	7	35
Offensive accumulations	22	16	—	16
Smoke Nuisances	29	2	—	2
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	439	—	—	—
Totals	2,198	226	27	216

II.—PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	...	...	24
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	...	23
Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	...	nil
Prosecutions for exposures of infected persons or things	...	...	nil
Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things	...	...	nil

III.—GENERAL.

Number of New Houses erected during year	...	...	122
Ash-pit privies converted into Water-closets	...	...	nil
Ash-closets converted into Water-closets	...	...	1
Total number of Water-closets in District	...	...	6,656
Total number of Ash-closets in District	...	...	16
Total number of Ash-pit privies in District	...	...	15

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)...	690
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,623
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	nil
3.		Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	26
4.		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of 3 above) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	155

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of dwelling-houses made fit in consequence of Informal Action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	121
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	27
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners	11
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	13

B.—Proceedings under sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... ..	nil
(2)	Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners	nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	nil
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished as a result of informal procedure under Section II	24

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
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INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

During the year 1,570 inspections were made of properties in the District. It was found necessary to serve 193 informal notices for the remedying of various public health nuisances and the majority of such notices received the prompt attention of the owners or occupiers of the properties concerned.

In 27 cases of non-compliance statutory notices were served on the owners.

This action resulted in the owners carrying out the necessary works in 11 cases and the Corporation doing the work in default and recovering costs in 13 cases.

933 visits were made with the object of seeing that notices were complied with.

HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE.

During the year under review 122 houses were erected in the City area comprising 93 council houses and 29 privately built houses.

At 31st December, 1954, the number of council houses erected since the war totalled 953.

The total number of houses built for and controlled by the Council, was, at the date mentioned, 1,593. In addition to these properties the Council have the letting, when vacant, of any of the 365 houses owned by the North Eastern Housing Association, Ltd.

Five families in urgent need of housing accommodation were found temporary homes in slum clearance properties.

It is anticipated that the Council will shortly discontinue the use of these old properties in accordance with instructions now issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. There is no doubt that these old houses have served a most useful purpose during the acute housing shortage experienced since the War years. About one hundred families have made temporary homes in slum clearance houses and there is no doubt that in addition to having helped such families to build up a home prior to allocation of a council house it has also prevented the breaking up of marriages resulting from domestic troubles in accommodation shared with other families.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE DISINFECTION AND VERMIN DISINFESTATION.

35 visits were made in connection with infectious diseases. Disinfection was carried out at 23 premises where bedding and articles of clothing, etc., were also treated.

49 premises, of which 39 were council houses, were disinfested.

Treatment for vermin disinfestation were also carried out at a hospital and school.

RODENT CONTROL.

Sewer Maintenance Treatments : In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries two maintenance treatments of the City's sewers were carried out during the year. A total of 745 manholes were baited showing pre-bait takes in 126 manholes and poison takes in 126.

Surface Infestations : All Council properties likely to become infested received periodical visits and treatments as required. The River Banks also received attention.

All cases of infestations in school canteens and hospitals were promptly attended to.

The Council continue to take full advantage of the Ministry's offer of grant aid, which, for the year under review will be half the irrecoverable expenditure incurred in the performance of functions under Part I of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The following table is a summary of the rodent control work carried out during the year :—

	Dwelling Houses.	Business Premises.	Other Infested Places.	Totals
No. of Premises				
Visited	220	96	123	439
No. of visits ...	631	311	354	1,296
No. of Pre-baits ...	1,467	1,789	1,509	4,765
No. of Poison-baits	890	1,362	893	3,145
No. of Post-baits ...	752	942	649	2,343

DRAINAGE.

The following particulars relate to drainage work carried out by the Department during the year :—

New drainage systems laid	...	...	...	...	29
Drainage systems reconstructed	...	...	...	...	20
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	14
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	47
Inspection chambers built	...	...	...	...	6
Ventilation provided to drains	...	...	...	...	4
New gullies fixed	...	...	...	...	7
Other drainage defects remedied	...	...	...	...	1
Smoke tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	12
Water tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	141
Colour tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	12

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Only one licence granted by the Council under the provisions of Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936, authorising the use of a trailer caravan, was in force in the year 1954.

In two cases owners of moveable dwellings sited at roadsides in the City area and likely to create a nuisance complied with requests to remove without further action being necessary.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

Premises. (1)	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	28	19	4	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	66	55	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	6	9	1	—
TOTAL	100	83	6	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied.	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspect'r	By H.M. Inspect'r	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	2	2		—	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	1	1	—	1	
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	6	6	—	1	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

FOOD PREMISES IN DURHAM CITY.

	<i>Trade.</i>						<i>Number.</i>
Bakers	9
Butchers	14
Confectioners	33
Dairies and Purveyors of Milk					38
Fish, Game and Poultry				5
Fried Fish...	13
General Dealers	29
Greengrocers and Fruiterers				13
Grocers and Provision Merchants					30
Hotels, Cafes and Snack Bars	18
Ice Cream dealers		53

MILK SUPPLY.

The following licences were issued by the Council :—

1. Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations, 1949 :—

“ Pasteurised ” Milk Dealers Licences	...	...	11
“ Pasteurised ” Milk Dealers Supplementary Licences			8
“ Sterilised ” Milk Dealers Licences	...	...	22
“ Sterilised ” Milk Dealers’ Supplementary Licences			2
2. Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 :—

“ Tuberculin Tested ” Milk Dealers Licences	...	1
“ Tuberculin Tested ” Milk Dealers Supplementary Licences	...	4

Registered premises have been inspected during the year in order to ensure that the various provisions of the Regulations were being complied with.

ICE CREAM.

Five applications for registration under the provisions of Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale of pre-packed ice cream were approved by the Council making a total of 53 premises registered for this purpose. Two firms are registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

Samples of ice-cream obtained from producers were forwarded to the Public Health Laboratories, Newcastle, for bacteriological examination. One sample was found to be below the recommended standard but check samples proved satisfactory.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The following list shows the quantities of food that were found upon inspection to be unfit for human consumption. All food condemned was voluntarily surrendered and destroyed at the Council's incinerator.

Bacon, 10 lbs.	Lentils, 2 cwt. 4 lbs.
Barley, 3 lbs.	Marshmallow, 1 tin.
Biscuits, 22½ lbs.	Margarine, 76 lbs.
Brisket Beef, 4 lbs.	Meat, 31½ tins.
Broth, 10 tins.	Milk, 77 tins.
Butter, 37 lbs.	Milk Powder, 172 lbs.
Cheese, 50½ lbs.	Miniature Cake Rolls, 29 pkts
Coconut Ice, 158 lbs.	Peas, 72 lbs.
Cream, 3 tins.	Pressed Meat, 17¾ lbs.
Crisps, 16 pkts.	Rabbits, 86.
Currants, 3 lbs.	Rice, 19½ lbs.
Fish, 11 tins.	Roast pork and stuffing, 2 lbs.
Flour, 7½ st.	Sausage, 52 lbs.
Frozen Beef, 193 lbs.	Sugar, 23 lbs.
Fruit, 544 tins.	Tea, 3¾ lbs.
Fruit Juice, 7 tins.	Vegetables, 213 tins.
Jellies, 16.	

MEAT INSPECTION.

All beasts and pigs slaughtered in local slaughter-houses were inspected as were a large proportion of sheep.

275 visits were made in connection with such inspections and the following table gives details of animals slaughtered and meat and offals condemned :—

	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Total.
Animals Slaughtered ...	343	558	154	1,055
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	36	—	7	43
Weight of condemned parts or organs	lbs. 763	lbs. —	lbs. 23	lbs. 786

All the above condemned meat and offals were destroyed at the Council's incinerator.

Five slaughterhouses were licensed by the Council but of these only three were actively engaged in slaughtering during the period July 1st (when private slaughtering re-commenced), to 31st December.

Eleven persons were issued with the necessary licences to act as slaughtermen and slaughtering appears, in all cases, to have been carried out skilfully and with expedition.

FOOD PREMISES—GENERAL.

Inspections :—

During the course of the year 322 visits were made to food premises.

Lectures :—

Any requests from organisations for talks on public health matters receive attention. Lectures have been given to Boy Scouts on public health and they have subsequently been examined for their Public Health Man Badges.

Food Poisoning.

During the year 1954, no notifications of food poisoning occurring in the City Area were received.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

65 visits were paid to shops in order to ascertain if the provisions of the Shops Acts were being complied with. The following sanitary defects were found and subsequently remedied by the shop-keepers concerned :—

Defective drainage	...	...	...	...	6
Offensive accumulation	...	...	...	...	3
To cleanse walls and ceilings	...	...	...	...	4
Defective sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	3
Insufficient sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	1
Insufficient washing facilities	...	...	...	...	1
Other defects	...	...	...	...	9

PREVENTION OF LITTER.

It is difficult to say whether the " Keep Durham Tidy " campaign inaugurated by the Council in Coronation Year has had any lasting effects.

A good deal of litter is still deposited in public places and along the river banks.

Education in this particular offensive habit appears to be of a ' long term policy ' type and a continued campaign by the press and posters appears to be the only solution. In the meantime a large number of prominently sited litter bins should be helpful.

The propaganda film prepared by the Council is still in demand and is in quite good condition. It has now been shown to at least 20 organisations and a total of over 1,000 persons.

It is possible that its popularity is due mainly to its entertainment value and delightful views of the City rather than to the propaganda angle against litter originally intended.

SUMMARY OF WORK OF SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT.

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	...	233
Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	690
Houses re-inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	933
Visits under Factories Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Visits to food shops and food premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	322
Visits under Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Visits in connection with defective or new drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	150
Smoke, water and colour tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	165
Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	193
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Visits to cases of infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Lots of bedding, clothing, etc. disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Library books disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Visits to verminous houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	99
Verminous premises disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Interviews with owners, contractors, complainants, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	596
Visits to caravans	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Inspections of rivers and streams	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Inspections of common yards and passages	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Inspections of public sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Visits in connection with Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,296
Miscellaneous sanitary inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	154

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938—1950.

YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1954.

The work under this Act is performed by an Inspector of the County Council of Durham and during the past year the following samples were submitted by him to the Public Analyst for examination :—

Pasteurised Milk ...	...	...	43
Oranges (Informal) ...	...	...	3
			—
			46
			==

These 46 samples were reported genuine.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The following information on water supplies is from a report kindly submitted by Mr. A. C. Wildsmith, Chief Engineer, Durham County Water Board :—

In April, 1954, the Board engaged its own chemist and bacteriologist, built a new laboratory at Consett and the whole of the Board's bacteriological and chemical sampling and analysis is now done by the Board's own staff in the Consett laboratory.

Much attention has been given to improving the filtration processes and the bacteriological quality of the water supplied to the consumer. Further investigations have been made, the treatment revised, and supervision of the filtration plants and service reservoirs improved with gratifying results. So far as the colour of the water is concerned it can be said that there has been a gradual noticeable improvement and during the last few months the benefits of the past year's work have become evident. Recently it has been possible considerably to reduce the amount of chlorine added to the water and at the present time the dose is only half to $\frac{2}{3}$ rds. of that applied in the Spring and Summer of 1954.

Since the setting-up of the laboratory 120 chemical samples and 707 bacteriological samples have been analysed and reported on. The classification for bacteriological supplies is that of the Ministry of Health Memorandum No. 71 which states that at least 50% of samples throughout any twelve months should fall within Class 1. (i.e., "Highly Satisfactory.").

For the quarter ended June, 1954, 85.9% of samples were Class 1, for quarter ended September, 1954, 63.5% for quarter ended December, 1954, 70.7%, and for the quarter ended March, 1955, 98.1%. It will be seen that the results for each quarter were well above the minimum standards.

REFUSE COLLECTION, PUBLIC BATHS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The following information relating to Refuse Collection, Public Baths, Sewerage and Sewage Works has been supplied by the City Engineer whose Department is responsible for these undertakings.

Refuse Collection.

Regular weekly collection of household refuse is maintained throughout the year. Trade refuse is collected as required.

Public Baths.

A $3\frac{3}{4}$ hour turnover with filtration and chlorination is maintained at the swimming pools.

Sewage Disposal.

Plans for the enlargement of the Barker's Haugh Sewage Works have been prepared and have been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

